

INTRODUCTION

This publication is the result of research conducted by an interdisciplinary group of young Polish researchers from various academic centres throughout Poland, who are interested in the issues of migration and migrants between the 19th and 21st centuries. The beginnings of this collaborative effort, which does not have a formal structure, date back to 2016, when the author of the present introduction contacted PhD students interested in this topic from Poland's leading research institutions with a view to establishing cooperation of an interdisciplinary nature. Later, in February 2017, these young researchers – PhD students from Krakow, Warsaw, Katowice, Olsztyn and Toruń came to Krakow to attend a *Multidisciplinary Workshop on Migration*. In addition, I invited Professor Olivier Forcade from the Sorbonne Université in Paris and Professor Rainer Hudemann, a retired professor of Sorbonne Université and Universität des Saarlandes, to be members of the academic council of this workshop and to moderate the thematic panels conducted within its framework. I had recently had the privilege of collaborating with Professor Forcade and Professor Hudemann as a member of an international group involved in a French-German research project led by them, the focus of which was evacuated persons in the French-German border region during World War II (between 2012 and 2015). Furthermore, the academic council of the *Multidisciplinary Workshop on Migration* consisted of the following members who also moderated the workshop's thematic panels: Dr hab. (post-doctoral degree) Tomasz Pudłocki from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Magdalena El Ghamari PhD from Collegium Civitas in Warsaw (at that time based at the University of Białystok), and the author of the present introduction Paweł Sękowski PhD from the Jagiellonian University. The success of the 2017 gathering strengthened the council's members in their conviction that collaboration between these young researchers was worth continuing.

The present volume is the latest initiative from our group. The scope of the issues raised in the papers is very broad. In the opinion of the volume's editors, what binds them together into a coherent whole is their focus on the issue of migration and immigrants, including refugees, in chronological and thematic order, from the 19th to the 21st century. The advantage of such an approach is the opportunity it provides the authors to present the results of their own research, conducted in most cases as part of their doctoral dissertations.

It ought to be emphasized that these young Polish researchers are addressing issues in an international context, making use of foreign sources and literature, and also that they are aware of the need to present their research results before an inter-

national scholarly community. In view of this fact, the entire monograph is published in English.

The international character of this initiative is also evident in the composition of the editors: the author of this introduction, who is a researcher from Poland, Professor Olivier Forcade from France and Professor Rainer Hudemann from Germany. It was a great honor for me that both these eminent scholars accepted my proposal to co-edit this volume.

Also worthy of mention are the reviewers of this publication, i.e. Professor Christoph Rass from Germany and Professor Philippe Nivet from France, who I would like to thank – on behalf of all the editors – for their valuable comments and remarks. We hope that due to all the factors mentioned above this publication will become an important work in migration and migrants studies that will resonate both in Poland and internationally.

The authors of the papers contained in this volume include historians, Americanists, a Slavist, a musicologist, a Turkologist, a specialist in jurisprudence and a psychologist. Eight of the nine authors are doctoral students, while one – the coordinator of the group and author of the present introduction, already has his PhD. As has already been mentioned, the contributions are arranged in chronological and thematic order.

The potential readership for this publication includes all researchers specialising in migration, migrants and refugees issues in the period between the 19th and the 21st centuries, as well as young Polish researchers interested in the current state of research from an interdisciplinary perspective. The respective contributions may also appeal to readers from outside the scholarly community who are intrigued by this subject.

Paweł Sękowski